

SUMMARY OF BOARD ITEM

ITEM # 02-5-2: STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES AND ACTIONS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Informational Item

DISCUSSION: On December 13, 2001, the Board approved the Environmental Justice Policies and Actions (Policies), which establish a framework for incorporating environmental justice into the ARB's programs consistent with the directives of State law. Associated with each of the Policies are a number of action items.

At the December 13, 2001 public meeting, the Executive Officer committed to briefing the Board six months after the Policies were approved. This status report presents the actions taken over the last six months to implement the Policies as well as plans for the rest of the year.

Over the last six months, the ARB staff has moved forward with the implementation of the policies. Some of the highlights of the last six months are: (1) creation of Environmental Justice Section within the ARB; (2) development of a detailed work plan to implement the Environmental Justice Policies; (3) initiation of environmental justice training for ARB staff; (4) meetings with Environmental Justice Stakeholders Committee to discuss implementation of policies, work plan, and work products; (5) the identification of an environmental justice contact person in the Chairman's office; and (6) field studies to develop methodologies for cumulative emission, exposure, and risk assessment.

In addition, the ARB staff has been heavily involved with a broad spectrum of public agencies and community groups to assess the health risk due to hexavalent chromium air pollution in the Barrio Logan area of San Diego. This effort was prompted by the detection of unexpectedly high levels of

hexavalent chromium at residences near two chrome platers in Barrio Logan.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:

This item will update the Board on the staff accomplishments and ongoing activities related to the Environmental Justice Policies and Actions during the last six months, and present the anticipated activities and accomplishments for the next six months.